

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 08975 111408Z

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6379

S E C R E T CAIRO 8975

NODIS

STADIS

FOR UNDERSEC SISCO FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS EG US

SUBJECT: SALE OF US EQUIPMENT TO EGYPTIAN NAVY

1. YOU KNOW PRESIDENT SADAT HAS INDICATED HIS
DESIRE TO PURCHASE CERTAIN ITEMS OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT
FROM THE UNITED STATES AND HAS RECENTLY SAID THAT
HE WOULD, AMONG OTHER THINGS, LIKE SOME HELP FOR
HIS NAVY.

2. IN RECENT DISCUSSION BETWEEN NAVAL ATTACHE
AND VICE ADMIRAL ZIKRY, CINC EGYPTIAN NAVY, ZIKRY
INQUIRED AS TO THE POSSIBILITY OF PURCHASING
CERTAIN "NON COMBAT" NAVAL EQUIPMENT FROM THE US.
HE INDICATED THAT HE WOULD REALLY LIKE TO ASK
FOR COMBAT SYSTEMS, SINCE HE CONSIDERS AMERICAN
INDUSTRY AND EQUIPMENT SUPERIOR TO OTHERS,
BUT THAT HE KNOWS THAT SALE OF COMBAT EQUIPMENT
IS NOT POLITICALLY POSSIBLE FOR THE PRESENT. BUT
COULD ALUSNA PLEASE PROVIDE A LISTING OF "NON-COMBAT"
US MANUFACTURED EQUIPMENT WHICH THE EGYPTIAN NAVY
MIGHT CONSIDER FOR PURCHASE?

3. ZIKRY EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN TWO SPECIFIC

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SECRET

PAGE 02 CAIRO 08975 111408Z

TYPES OF EQUIPMENT. FIRST OF THESE WAS HARBOR

DEFENSE SYSTEMS -- PASSIVE ALTERING SYSTEMS TO
GUARD AGAINST SURREPTITIOUS ENTRY INTO PORTS,
ANCHORAGES, AND HARBORS. THE OTHER WAS PRECISION
NAVIGATION EQUIPMENT SUCH AS THE RAYDIST AND
CUBIC SYSTEMS WHICH HAVE BEEN USED HERE BY THE US
NAVY. HE POINTED OUT THAT THIS TYPE OF EQUIPMENT
WOULD HAVE MULTIPLE NON-COMBAT USES, IT WOULD BE A
VALUABLE ASSET, FOR EXAMPLE, IN CONDUCTING HYDROGRAPHIC
SURVEY OPERATIONS AT VARIOUS POINTS ALONG THE
EGYPTIAN COAST. ALUSNA WAS NON-COMMITTAL.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS WITH
REGARD TO FEASIBILITY OF SALES OF NON-LETHAL SYSTEMS
AS DESCRIBED ABOVE TO EGYPTIAN NAVY. FROM OUR POINT
OF VIEW BELIEVE IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IF WE COULD
BE RESPONSIVE TO REQUESTS OF THIS NATURE IN GENERAL
AND TO THE TWO SPECIFIC ITEMS DESCRIBED IN PARA 2
ABOVE IN PARTICULAR.
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